

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANT TO ESTABLISH CHINESE COLLECTION

(CRANSTON, RI) The Cranston Public Library is proud to announce a materials grant from the Confucius Institute at the University of Rhode Island. The grant will establish a Chinese collection at the Cranston Public Library. The collection will include a wide range of books and DVDs in English and Mandarin about all aspects of China including business, history, politics, culture, cooking and philosophy. There will also be a collection of language learning materials for patrons interested in learning Mandarin.

The Confucius Institute will provide over 1100 items valued at \$30,000 to the library which will be added to the collection over the next year. Included will be a large collection of DVDs with a wide variety of subjects ranging from kung fu, cooking, dance to popular Chinese soap operas. The collection will be located in part at both the Central Library and the Auburn branch library.

The Chinese-American population of Cranston is one of the fastest growing segments in the city. Between the 2000 U.S. Census and the 2007 American Community Survey the Chinese-American population in Cranston increased 281%. "Libraries have always been about opening doors to resources to meet changing community needs. We recognized a need in our community with the changing demographics and increased numbers of Chinese-Americans moving to Cranston. The generous grant from the Confucius Institute will enable us to make available a rich spectrum of resources to all Rhode Island library users. We are honored by this gift and promise to be good stewards of these unique materials", said David Macksam Director of Cranston Public Library.

The grant also establishes a partnership between Cranston Public Library, the Confucius Institute and the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Cranston Public Library will host a graduate student from the newly created Certificate in Chinese and Global Information Services which is to be approved by URI.

"The donation of a Chinese collection to the Cranston Public Library will meet the information needs and provide information services to the residents in Cranston and a larger community in Rhode Island. GSLIS students pursuing the potential Certificate in Chinese and Global Information Services will benefit by working with professionals at Cranston Public Library for their professional field experience", said Confucius Institute Director Dr. Yan Ma.

In speaking about the importance of this grant, Cranston Mayor Allan Fung said, "I am extremely grateful to the Confucius Institute for this generous donation. In our increasingly diverse community, it is so important that our citizens have access to a broad base of cultural history and this donation helps us provide that."